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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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ACTION: Ambassador PARIS

TOP SECRET PRIORITY

RPT INFO: All NATO capitals

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DATE 1/4/88

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In next few days Department plans use Ambassadorial Group on Berlin as vehicle for briefing British, French and Germans on Cuban developments. Reports of these briefings may be utilized by USRO for briefing MAC Permreps. Other addressees may utilize reports for briefing host government at appropriately high level. These reports will contain sensitive information and addressees should stress caution about leaks.

At today's meeting, Thompson chairman, Hilsman, INR, reported aerial reconnaissance of 27th showed work on missile sites continuing at rapid pace with efforts being made at dispersion and camouflage. We virtually certain all personnel at sites are Soviet. One sighting of Soviet military insignia made. Further reconnaissance being made today, as UN not yet able take over surveillance function.

Drafted by: EUR-JKHolloway:mt
10/29/82

Telegraphic transmittal and classification approved by: William R. Tyler
[Signature]

Clearance:

BTF - Mr. Hillenbrand
INR - Mr. Hilsman
EUR - Mr. Tyler

SOV - Mr. Guthrie (in substance)
RPM - Mr. Popper (in substance)
S/S - Mr. Weiner

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Soviet withdrawal, but in no case are we encouraging any crowing or ~~gloating~~ gloating over what appears to be Soviet defeat. We believe that if Khrushchev has lost he will be less likely take a tough line on Berlin, although by same token he will also be in no position make concessions on Berlin. Therefore, we do not wish draw attention to Berlin at this moment. This particularly applicable to plebiscite proposal. Knapstein promised full Allied consultation on plebiscite.

Both Thompson and Nitze stressed US belief that we would probably be on verge full-scale nuclear war if it were established that Sovs not dismantling weapons.

Although we have had not had complete report on U Thant-Kuznetsov talks, there does not appear to be any Soviet block in his instructions. Thompson said US welcomed Kuznetsov's appointment as he fully conversant all elements Sov policy.

Lord Hood reported UK press guidance parallels US line.

Knapstein gave report from German Embassy Havana on conscription of militia and formation defense units. Recalcitrants reportedly to be shot on spot.

On Berlin matters, Group agreed invite LIVE OAK General Baker to Washington for consultation on Berlin planning.

Next briefing tentatively set for tomorrow.

END

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